



Biography

437th Airlift Wing (AMC)

Office of Public Affairs Charleston Air Force Base, SC 29404 (843) 963-5608
e-mail: 437aw.pa@charleston.af.mil

COLONEL WILLIAM J. BENDER

Colonel William J. Bender is the Commander, 437th Operations Group, Air Mobility Command, Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina. In this position, Colonel Bender's responsibilities ensure the combat readiness of four C-17A squadrons and an operations support squadron. The Group was the first to receive the C-17A Globemaster III in 1993. Additionally, the 437th Airlift Wing provides more than 40 percent of the Department of Defense's all-weather airdrop force.

Colonel Bender was born on January 1, 1961, in Buffalo, NY. He earned a Bachelor of Engineering Degree in Electrical Engineering from Manhattan College and a Master of Arts Degree in Business Administration from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and in National Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Colonel Bender was commissioned as a second lieutenant in May 1983 and is a command pilot with over 3,500 hours in the T-37, T-38, C/KC-135A/E/R, EC-18B, E/KE-3A/B, C-141B and C-17A.

Prior to his current assignment, Colonel Bender was a student at the United States Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. Previously, he was assigned as a Special Assistant to the Commander, Headquarters Air Mobility Command at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. At McChord Air Force Base, Washington, he commanded the United States' oldest active airlift squadron, the 4th Airlift Squadron of the 62nd Operations Group, where his squadron was responsible for providing strategic airlift and tactical airdrop in support of combat and humanitarian contingencies throughout the world, in addition to providing the nation's Prime Nuclear Airlift Force capability.

Colonel Bender graduated from Manhattan College in 1983 and attended undergraduate pilot training at Vance AFB, OK. He then began flying the KC-135A at Loring AFB where he gained experience in the squadron and on wing staff as a flight commander and Standardization and Evaluation pilot. He was later assigned as a research pilot in the 4950th Test Wing at Wright Patterson AFB, flying both C-135 and EC-18 ARIA aircraft. He worked as a program manager for Infrared Properties OT&E and as Wing Executive Officer during this assignment. He then went to Tinker AFB to serve as the Chief E-3B flight test pilot. Next, a year at Air Command and Staff College preceded a joint assignment as an Air Operations Officer in the Operations Directorate at HQ U.S. European Command. Colonel Bender was then selected to crossflow into the C-141B aircraft and was assigned to McChord AFB, initially as Operations Officer, prior to assuming Squadron Command. He then served as a Special Assistant to the Commander-in-Chief, United States Transportation Command and Commander, Air Mobility Command where he worked executive-level projects in addition to his responsibilities as principle speechwriter. Most recently, he is a graduate of the United States Army War College.

Colonel Bender and his wife, Sue, are the parents of two children: Matthew (13) & Kristin (11).

EDUCATION:

1983 Bachelor of Engineering Degree, Electrical Engineering, Manhattan College, NY
1986 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB AL (residence and correspondence)
1989 Master of Arts Degree, Business Administration, Embry Riddle Aeronautical Univ. FL
1995 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB AL
1996 Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk VA
1999 Air War College, Maxwell AFB AL (correspondence)
2002 Master of Arts Degree, National Strategic Studies, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks PA

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. December 1983 – November 1984, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Vance AFB OK
2. May 1985 – January 1989, KC-135 Flight Commander, Loring AFB ME
3. January 1989 – September 1992, Wing Executive Officer, Wright-Patt AFB OH
4. September 1992 – August 1994, Flight Test Assistant Operations Officer, Tinker AFB OK
5. August 1994 – June 1995, ACSC Student, Maxwell AFB AL
6. July 1995 – August 1997, Joint Staff Officer, HQUSEUCOM, Stuttgart, GE
7. August 1997 – April 1998, Assistant Operations Officer, C-141 Pilot, McChord AFB WA
8. April 1998 – September 1998, Operations Officer, 4th Airlift Squadron, McChord AFB WA
9. September 1998 – February 2000, Commander, 4th Airlift Squadron, McChord AFB WA
10. February 2000 – July 2001, Special Assistant to the AMC Commander, Scott AFB IL
11. July 2001 – June 2002, USAWC Student, Carlisle Barracks PA
12. Presently: Commander, 437 Operations Group, Charleston AFB, SC

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Rating: Command Pilot
Flight Hours: More than 3,800
Aircraft Flown: T-37, T-38, C/KC-135A/E/R, EC-18B, E/KE-3A/B, C-141B, C-17A

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Defense Meritorious Service Medal
Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster
Air Force Commendation Medal
Aerial Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster
Air Force Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters
Joint Meritorious Unit Award
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
Distinguished Graduate ACSC
Distinguished Graduate SOS
Distinguished Graduate AFROTC

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

(Current as of *Jul 2002*)

Second Lieutenant	May 22, 1983
First Lieutenant	May 22, 1985
Captain	May 22, 1987
Major	March 1, 1994
Lieutenant Colonel	January 1, 1998
Colonel	August 1, 2002

(Current as of *Jul 2002*)